IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

TRAVIS S. SWEIGART

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No.: 5:21-ev-00922

V.

VOYAGER TRUCKING CORP., KEVIN J. PATTEN, BLUE & GREEN TRUCKING & HAIR, LLC, and KEVIN J. PATTEN d/b/a BLUE & GREEN TRUCKING & HAIR, LLC,

Defendants.

DEFENDANTS' PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM

I. BRIEF SUMMARY AND NATURE OF THE CASE

On September 9, 2019, Plaintiff Travis Sweigart was riding his 2002 Yamaha Fazer motorcycle on PA Route 10 through Morgantown, PA and speeding in order to get to work on-time.

At the same time, Defendant Kevin J. Patten was driving his company's 2006

Freightliner tractor with trailer attached loaded with municipal waste. Mr. Patten's company,

Defendant Blue & Green Trucking & Hair, LLC had been hired as an independent contractor by

Voyager Trucking to carry the municipal waste to the Conestoga Landfill, less than a mile away.

Mr. Patten was not running late or speeding. Mr. Patten was exiting from US 176 and planed to

travel across Rte. 10 and head left from this exit.

Both Plaintiff and Mr. Patten were familiar with this area. Indeed, Plaintiff testified that he had operated vehicles on this stretch of road thousands of times.

Visibility is not at issue. Mr. Patten stopped for at least three seconds at the Rte. 10 road edge and could see, and could be seen by, approaching traffic on Route 10, including Plaintiff. Mr. Patten saw a motorcycle's headlight at a bridge about 3 football fields away.

Mr. Patten had almost completed his turn when the accident happened. In fact, his tractor was already in the left lane; his trailer had almost cleared the right lane when Plaintiff first applied any braking, locked his rear-tire and slid into the fourth axle tire at the trailer's rear.

The evidence shows that Plaintiff sped toward Mr. Patten's moving tractor-trailer and watched 65' of the 70' tractor trailer move in front of him for 11.6 seconds before he struck it.

Mr. Patten's tractor trailer was present at the road edge and visible for at least 3 seconds before initiating that 11.6 second turn – this means Mr. Patten and his vehicles were visible and present for more than 15 seconds before impact and before Plaintiff crossed under the bridge to approach the intersection.

Plaintiff caused this accident by losing control and striking the side of a vehicle that he had been looking at for 15 or so seconds while speeding toward it under alleged control of the motorcycle's forward movement, speed, acceleration, deceleration, and braking. Had Plaintiff been honoring the posted speed limit, Mr. Patten's trailer would have cleared the lane before Plaintiff drove into it. Of course, Mr. Sweigart could also have approached the intersection with caution, maintained an assured clear distance, slowed down, or moved from the left side of the lane to the right side of the lane to go around the rear of the trailer and avoid the collision.

99.9% of drivers respond better than Plaintiff did in this accident. Likewise, studies demonstrate that every driver in Mr. Patten's shoes would have similarly initiated that left turn.

II. JURISDICTION

Diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332.

III. LEGAL ISSUES

A. Plaintiff Caused This Accident

Plaintiff has an obligation to follow the laws of the road and not run into other vehicles he encounters on the roadway. Plaintiff breached these obligations by failing to:

- 1. obey the posted speed limit;
- 2. approach an intersection with caution especially when he knew that vehicles crossed or entered Route 10 from the I-176 off-ramp;
- 3. keep an assured clear distance ahead;
- 4. exercise reasonable care while operating his motorcycle in hours of darkness; and
- 5. slow or stop his motorcycle before colliding into the end of Mr. Patten's trailer.

These breaches are clear evidence of Plaintiff's unsafe, illegal, and reckless conduct and a demonstration of Plaintiff's poor judgment. This is what caused the accident.

In fact, failure to obey the posted speed limit alone constitutes negligence *per se* and is a forfeiture of any right of way. See, e.g., <u>Enfield v. Stout</u>, 161 A.2d 22 (Pa. 1960). Defendants request an *opening* instruction to the jury advising that Plaintiff was negligent *per se*.

Mr. Patten's tractor trailer is approximately 70 feet long. Plaintiff did not strike the tractor. If he did, this would indicate an emergency situation that required an immediate response — it would also indicate the possibility that the tractor pulled out in front of his path of travel. Plaintiff did not strike the front or even the middle of the trailer either. Instead, Plaintiff watched the tractor trailer actively cross his lane of travel for 11.6 before striking the rear tandem wheels of the trailer which are positioned in the last 5 feet of the trailer. The tractor trailer was present and visible to Plaintiff for at least 15 seconds — 3 of which it was stopped at the road edge. It was Plaintiff's excess speed, inattentiveness, and disregard for fundamental motorcycle operation requirements that were the sole cause of this accident.

1. Plaintiff Was Speeding

There is no dispute that Plaintiff was travelling in excess of the posted speed limit for Route 10 in violation of 75 Pa.C.S § 3362. Plaintiff's own accident reconstruction experts have Plaintiff travelling over the speed limit at incipient braking right before the locked rear tire skid mark left by Plaintiff's motorcycle when he lost control. Defendants' accident reconstruction experts agree that Plaintiff was speeding as he approached the intersection and was conservatively going 15 mph over the speed limit as he approached the bridge almost 800 feet

away. Plaintiff testified that he let off the throttle and applied the front brake – this was before incipient braking. If true, Plaintiff was going even faster. Had Plaintiff been going the speed limit, Mr. Patten's left turn would have been completed and the collision avoided.

2. <u>Plaintiff Violated the Assured Clear Distance Rule and Fundamental Motorcycle Rider Obligations</u>

Ignoring that Plaintiff obeying the speed limit alone would have avoided this crash,

Plaintiff also violated his duty to maintain an assured clear distance ahead. See, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §

3361¹. The assured clear distance rule requires motorists to travel at a speed that would permit them to stop within the bloom of their headlights and honoring conditions that then and there exist, like hours of darkness, approaching intersections, "or other traffic". Plaintiff testified that he knew this but was not sure how far his headlight illuminated in front of him. Intersections and hours of darkness require heightened vigilance, caution, and reduced speed.

Plaintiff failed to honor the instructions and advice provided in the Pennsylvania motorcycle manual ("MC Manual"). The MC Manual advises motorcycle drivers to "SEE" – "Search, Evaluate, and Execute" meaning "search aggressively ahead to avoid potential hazards even before they arise. How aggressively you search, and how much time and space you have, can eliminate or reduce harm. Focus even more on finding potential escape routes in and around intersections....". Riders are instructed to search for left turning vehicles. The MC Manual instructs riders to "leave enough time to react if an emergency arises". Riders must be able to

^{§ 3361.} Driving vehicle at safe speed.

No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing, nor at a speed greater than will permit the driver to bring his vehicle to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead. Consistent with the foregoing, every person shall drive at a safe and appropriate speed when approaching and crossing an intersection or railroad grade crossing, when approaching and going around a curve, when approaching a hill crest, when traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway and when special hazards exist with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.

adjust their speed, communicate their presence, and adjust their position and direction in high-risk areas, including intersections. Intersections are characterized as representing "the greatest potential for conflict between you [a rider] and other traffic". The MC Manual instructs riders to reduce speed and increase distance when approaching intersections and driving in hours of darkness. This advice echo's Pennsylvania's assured clear distance rule.

Ultimately, Plaintiff had an affirmative duty to maintain a safe space and distance and not run into the side of a trailer that was present and visible in his path for more than 15 seconds.

3. Plaintiff's Response to Mr. Patten's Tractor Trailer Was Worse Than 99.9% of Similarly Situated Individuals

This delayed response requires explanation. Defendants' experts opine that Plaintiff delayed response to Mr. Patten's present and visible tractor trailer was a combination of speed, inattentiveness, and inability to control the motorcycle. Frankly, the more skilled Plaintiff is in operating a motorcycle², means that he was driving faster or was more inattentive. New data from Motive about the location, speed, bearing and position of Mr. Patten's tractor indicates that Mr. Patten was visible to Plaintiff earlier, was moving slower, and present longer during the Plaintiff's approach. The new data demonstrates Plaintiff's response to be even slower than previously described.

Defendants submit that Plaintiff's skill level was placed into dispute and at issue by Plaintiff himself. Plaintiff has his own explanation for this delayed response. Plaintiff proffers a human factors expert that excuses his conduct by primarily relying upon Plaintiff's own previous personal experiences on his motorcycle and at this accident scene. Plaintiff even proffers a motorcycle riding and mechanics expert (Mr. Randy Nelson) who blesses Plaintiff's actions in

² The motorcycle also has to be in a condition capable of responding to Plaintiff's skill level. If Plaintiff was counter-steering and applying the brakes appropriately and the motorcycle was responding, there would have to be some other explanation for why Plaintiff struck the trailer and/or could not stop.

this accident event. Mr. Nelson opines that Plaintiff is an experienced rider and driver and that his braking and bike handling were appropriate³. Plaintiff's experts opine that Plaintiff's hazard assessment and perception was reasonable for a motorcyclist, especially one like the Plaintiff with his own experiences riding a motorcycle generally and at this specific accident roadway.

Indeed, since filing and arguing of motions *in limine*, Plaintiff produced a demonstrative video and photographs from his motorcycle expert purportedly to demonstrate that a motorcycle could create a hook at the end of a tire mark with a rear-locked tire. This alone opens the door to evaluate whether Plaintiff or his motorcycle were capable of doing that – condition, licensing and competence.

Plaintiff did not have a motorcycle license and his motorcycle had not passed any required safety inspection. Licensing demonstrates basic proficiency and an individual's "ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle of the type or class of vehicles for which the applicant desires a license to drive". 75 Pa.C.S. § 1508(a). See also, 75 Pa.C.S. §§ 1501, 1504, 4701, et seq.

Another explanation for Plaintiff's delayed response is impairment due to the influence of marijuana. It is undisputed that Plaintiff had marijuana metabolites in his system at the time of the collision in violation of 75 Pa.C.S. § 3802(d)(1)(i) and (iii). See also, Commonwealth v. Etchison, 916 A.2d 1169, aff'd in 2008 Pa. LEXIS 263 (Pa. 2008)(demonstration of impairment is not the question but rather if any amount of controlled substance was in his blood); Crosby v. Commonwealth Department of Transportation, et al, 548 A.2d 281 (Pa. Super. 1988)(requiring a

³ Swerving and stopping are two avoidance skills discussed in the MC Manual. Either of these skills would have avoided the September 9, 2019 accident. The MC Manual states that sometimes stopping is not possible and a rider should be ready and able to swerve around an object. In this accident, Plaintiff operated his motorcycle in the far left side of the lane. He ignored the space to the right that would have provided an escape route around the rear of the trailer. The rules of the road in Pennsylvania require operating a vehicle on the right side of a roadway when practical. See, 75 Pa.C.S. § 3301.

showing of some type of corroborative evidence that is suggestive of impairment in addition to toxicology results).

Here, Plaintiff was familiar with the road where the accident happened and knows that tractor trailers exit off the ramp from I-176 to enter onto Route 10. Plaintiff purports to be a skilled and knowledgeable motorcycle driver. He has experienced vehicles cross his path that he did not anticipate and was able to avoid hitting them. In fact, Plaintiff's expert, Randy Nelson characterizes the videos that Plaintiff took of himself operating his motorcycle as evidence of his skill level. Plaintiff was so comfortable with operating his motorcycle that he was able to perform tricks such as wheelies. It is also undisputed that at the time of the accident, Plaintiff had marijuana and a marijuana pipe in his possession. The parties also agree that marijuana use could result in a slowed reaction time. Both parties have toxicology experts in this case.

Defendants submit that the toxicology report should be admitted into evidence given the corroborative evidence of impairment. In fact, the courts have submitted toxicology reports to a jury with less corroborative evidence than provided here. See, e.g., <u>Donaldson v. Arsenich</u>, 2011 Phila. Ct. Com. Pl. LEXIS 62, (aff'd on appeal without opinion in 2011 Pa. Super. LEXIS 4831 (Pa. Super. 2011) and <u>Crosby v. Commonwealth Department of Transportation et al.</u>, 548 A.2d 281 (Pa. Super. 1988). This evidence is not unfairly prejudicial or likely to cloud the impartial scrutiny and evaluation of the facts by the jury. Defendants anticipate that Plaintiff will offer evidence that he was not impaired and both sides should be presented to the jury so that they can weigh the credibility of the evidence. This is the duty of the jury.

Defendants intend to submit memorandums to this Court on the preliminary preclusion and/or limitation of, e.g., the toxicology report, evidence of Plaintiff's marijuana usage and possession, lack of motorcycle license and safety inspection, Plaintiff's motorcycle videos and photographs and seek reconsideration of the same in light of the new Motive data, increase in

delayed response by Plaintiff to the tractor-trailer, and the inclusion of Plaintiff's skill level by his motorcycle operations expert, Randy Nelson.

B. Mr. Patten Was Not Negligent

Plaintiff must establish that Mr. Patten owed a duty to Plaintiff, breached that duty, and as a result, Plaintiff suffered damages. See, Winiski v. Brown & Brown Insurance Co., 906 A.2d 571, 575-576 (citing Phillips v. Cricket Lighters, 841 A.2d 1000, 1008 (Pa. 2003), reversed on other grounds). Negligence is the absence of ordinary care that a reasonably prudent person would have exercised in the same circumstance. Martin v. Evans, 711 A.2d 458, 502 (Pa. 1998). There is no higher standard of care applied to commercial drivers and Plaintiff will not be permitted to offer argument or testimony to the contrary.

1. Mr. Patten Had the Right of Way and Occupied the Intersection When Plaintiff Ran Into Him

The Motive vehicle location data demonstrates that Mr. Patten stopped for at least 3 seconds at the road edge prior to initiating his left turn⁴. He then initiated his turn in advance of an approaching motorcyclist over 930 feet away – almost three football fields – and by the bridge.

Defendants' expert, Dr. Jeffrey Muttart compared the actions of Plaintiff and Mr. Patten in this case — initiating the left turn was what a reasonably prudent truck driver would have done in Mr. Patten's shoes. In fact, Dr. Muttart found that 9 out of 10 tractor-trailer drivers would have pulled out and initiated that left turn with a vehicle down by the bridge. Plaintiff suggests that Mr. Patten should have waited ten seconds — really it would have been more — but there would be no legal or factual reason to wait for a vehicle by the bridge and over 15 seconds away.

⁴ Plaintiff may assert that Mr. Patten violated Pennsylvania's left turn statute (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3322), however, the statute does not apply to the facts of this accident. 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 3322 prohibits a vehicle from making a left turn in front of a vehicle approaching from the opposition direction. For much of the accident event, Plaintiff was not approaching from the opposition direction but rather from the side of or perpendicular to Mr. Patten's tractor-trailer.

The Pennsylvania rules of the road require a turning vehicle to yield to other vehicles that are close enough to constitute a hazard. At 900 feet away, Plaintiff did not constitute a hazard. Further, Mr. Patten occupied the lane for at least 8 seconds before Plaintiff did anything. Hindsight is not an appropriate measure to evaluate breach of a duty. Flanagan v. Peoples Passenger Railway Co., 163 Pa. 102, 29 A. 743 (1984).

Also, Mr. Patten would not be able to appreciate the speed of an approaching vehicle by the bridge but has a reasonable expectation that the operator is obeying the speed limit. Mr. Patten was familiar with the intersection and that very left turn. He knew that he could complete his left turn if the approaching vehicle was by the bridge and he could have — but for Plaintiff's speeding. The MC Manual advised Plaintiff that it was difficult for vehicles to see and gauge motorcycle drives. Plaintiff should have anticipated a tractor trailer over 900 feet away would not be able to tell that he was going faster than the posted speed limit.

2. Mr. Patten Was Not Distracted

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ("FMCSA") permits the use of handsfree cell phone use when operating a tractor trailer. See, 49 CFR § 392.82. This distinction between hands-held and hands-free cell phone use is generally true regardless of what type of vehicle a person is operating. Ultimately, hands-held cell phone use and/or manually operating a cell phone while driving is prohibited. This was not the case here. Instead, Plaintiff contends that despite the cell phone call being hands free, Mr. Patten was distracted at the time of the accident but the call from his cousin Mr. Hamilton.

To support this contention, Plaintiff offers Dr. David Strayer as a distraction expert in this case⁵. Specifically, that Mr. Patten experienced impaired judgment due to cell phone

⁵ Defendants filed a motion to limit and/or preclude Dr. Strayer's testimony pursuant to Fed.R.Evid. 702 and 703 that is still pending. See also, Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 509 US 579 (1993). Defendants assert that Dr. Strayer's opinions are speculative and lack foundation, and therefore, cannot pass Daubert's muster. See

distraction. It's unclear how initiating a left turn when there is almost more than three football Ultimately, even Dr. Strayer concedes that in order for distraction to occur, the party to the conversation must be an active participant. That's not what happened here.

Mr. Patten answered the call from his cousin the morning of September 9, 2019. The call was connected at approximately 5:35 a.m. – well before the 5:39 a.m. accident. In fact, Mr. Patten likely hadn't exited I-176 yet. Mr. Patten greeted his cousin and said "said hi to Zanna" – his wife – who was in the cab with him⁶. Mr. Hamilton wished the couple a Happy Anniversary and asked how their trip to Atlantic City to celebrate went. Zanna told Mr. Hamilton what they did and was letting him know that he should take his girlfriend to Atlantic City. Mr. Hamilton then heard Mr. Patten make a comment about a vehicle that was going to hit his trailer. He asked Zanna what happened and she ended the call. Mr. Patten uttered two sentences during this call – one to his cousin at the very beginning to say hi and the other an exclamation of Plaintiff's impending collision with his trailer.

This conversation would not indicate impairment due to distraction even by Dr. Strayer's standards. Instead, Dr. Strayer opines that it really was the salacious nature of the conversation that was distracting to Mr. Patten. Yet, Mr. Hamilton explained that he initially called to talk about what happened to him the night before with two ladies but never got the opportunity.

Once it was determined that this "salacious" conversation never happened, Dr. Strayer indicated that Mr. Patten is actively monitoring the call or hypervigilant to the words used because Mr. Hamilton is a convicted sex offender. Apparently, sex offenders cannot control what they say

also, Oddi v. Ford Motor Company, 234 F.3d 136, 146 (3d. Cir. 2000)(internal citations omitted)(preclusion of expert opinion when there is too great a gap between the facts and the opinion).

⁶ It was not unusual for Zanna Patten to drive with her husband on trips. Ms. Patten is a hair stylist by trade. The name of the Company is "Blue and Green Trucking and Hair, LLC", a nod to her vocation.

⁷ Mr. Hamilton's sex offender status will not be presented to the jury pursuant to Fed.R.Evid. 609.

anxious, worried, or even slightly concerned about what his cousin was going to say – as far as he was concerned – they were discussing his Anniversary. It was not unusual for his cousin to call since he was also on his way to work. Dr. Strayer instead attributed Mr. Hamilton's thought process (i.e. the indication by Mr. Patten that his wife was in the cab) to that of Mr. Patten. This is not supported by the evidence.

C. Voyager Is Not Vicariously Liable For Its Independent Contractor's Employee, Mr. Patten⁸

Voyager hired a qualified independent contractor, Blue & Green Trucking & Hair, LLC ("Blue & Green") to transport solid waste from transfer stations to landfills and/or incinerators. Plaintiff concedes that Mr. Patten was not an employee of Voyager but rather of its independent contractor, Blue & Green. Plaintiff also agrees that Voyager lacked the requisite control over Blue & Green or Mr. Patten that would permit a factfinder to find an employee/employer or master/servant relationship between Mr. Patten and Voyager.

In Pennsylvania, a contractee is not liable for the negligent acts or omissions of its independent contractor. Drexel v. Union Prescription Centers, Inc., 582 F.2d 781, 785 (3d. Cir. 1978); Drummond v. Hilton Hotel Corp., 501 F. Supp. 29, 30 (E.D. Pa. 1980); Feller v. New Amsterdam Casualty Co., 363 Pa. 483, 486 (Pa. 1950; Hammermill Paper Co. v. Rust Engineering Co., 243 A.2d 389, 392 (Pa. 1968; and Universal Am-Can, Ltd. v. WCAB (Minteer), 762 A.2d 328, 333 (Pa. 2000). There are limited exceptions to this rule. See, Astoria Fed.Sav. & Loan Ass'n v. Solimino, 501 US 104, 108 (1991)(holding that well-established common law principles should apply unless it is evident that the common law contradicts a statutory purpose).

⁸ Of course, this also requires Plaintiff to first demonstrate that Mr. Patten was negligent.

In an attempt to circumvent this rule, Plaintiff alleges that Voyager is responsible the actions of Mr. Patten through the definition section of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration ("FMCSA") regulations and as a franchise under the Restatement (Second) of Torts § 428. Plaintiff requests a novel and broad application of 49 CFR § 390.5T and Restatement (Second) of Torts § 428. Plaintiff cannot be successful as a matter of law.

There is no dispute that Voyager is an exempt for hire motor carrier that is in the business of transporting garbage from transfer stations to landfills or incinerators. At the time of the accident, Blue & Green was also an exempt motor carrier transporting garbage. As exempt motor carriers, Voyager and Blue & Green are not subject to the economic or financial regulations of the FMCSA.

1. The FMCSA Definition Section In Part 390 Does Not Impute <u>Liability To Exempt Motor Carriers</u>

The mechanism that subjects exempt motor carriers to the FMCSA safety regulations (e.g. hours of service, qualifications of drivers, conditions of vehicles) is 49 USC § 31502. In fact, the purpose of Part 390 (FMCSA Safety regulations chapter) state: "This part establishes general applicability, definitions, general requirements and information as they pertain to persons subject to this chapter". 49 CFR § 390.1.

Plaintiff asserts that independent contractors are included under the definition "employee" in the FMCSA regulations⁹. See, 49 CFR § 390.5T (defining employee and employer as:

Employee means any individual, other than employer, who is employed by an employer and who in the course of his or her employment directly affects commercial motor vehicle safety. Such term includes a driver of a commercial motor vehicle (including independent contractor while in the course of operating a commercial motor vehicle), a mechanic, and a freight handler...

⁹ Plaintiff relies on a suspended version of the definitions in Part 390. See, e.g. 49 CFR §390.5 compared with 49 CFR § 390.5T.

Employer means any person engaged in a business affecting interstate commerce who owns or leases a commercial motor vehicle in connection with that business, or assigns employees to operate it...).

However, the terms "employee" and "employer" under § 390.5 are limited to the operation of a "commercial motor vehicle". Regulations applying to commercial motor vehicles do not extend to Voyager or Blue & Green because they do not transport property. See, 49 CFR § 390.5T, commercial motor vehicle (defined as: "...any self-propelled or towed motor vehicle used on a highway in interstate commerce to transport passengers or property...").

It is well established in Pennsylvania that garbage is not "property" under the Motor Carrier Act because it has little to no economic value. See, Mazzarella v. FAST Rig Support, LLC, 115 F. Supp. 3d 500 (M.D. Pa. 2015), questioned on other grounds and affirmed in 2016 US App. LEXIS 9687 (3d. Cir. 2016). This is not a departure from the prior agencies' interpretation of property either. Pennsylvania's Interstate Commerce Commission ("ICC") and the Department of Transportation ("DOT") also interpreted the term "property" to exclude garbage. See, Wilson v. IESI NY Corp., 444 F. Supp. 2d 298 (M.D. Pa. 2006). This determination has been the same regardless of which side takes the position that garbage should be considered property – the modern Pennsylvania Courts decided that garbage is not property ¹⁰.

Also, Plaintiff's position that the inclusion of a term in the definition section of Part 390 requires mandatory application is not supported legally or factually. There are a lot of definitions for part 390 and not every definition will apply. For example, this definition section includes, e.g., "farm vehicle driver", "intermodal equipment provider", "private motor carrier",

¹⁰ Plaintiff indicated that this Court should consider Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") litigation where garbage haulers sought an exception to the FLSA's minimum wages. The courts came to the same conclusion – trash is not property. This can be distinguished from recyclables that have economic value. See, e.g., <u>Mazzarella v. FAST Rig Support, LLC</u>, 115 F. Supp. 3d. 500 (M.D. Pa. 2015); <u>Raymond v. Mid-Bronx Haulage Corp</u>, 2017 US Dist. LEXIS 50430 (S.D.N.Y. 2017).

"shipper", etc. No one is suggesting that Voyager is all of these types of carriers just because they too are subject to safety regulations and are contained in the definition section of Part 390. Defendants' position is further supported by the FMCSA's expansion of the old definitions (i.e. 49 CFR § 390.5) has been extended to include a separate and distinct definition for "exempt motor carrier". See, 49 CFR §390.5T. In fact, when Pennsylvania has imputed vicarious liability for the negligent acts of an independent contractor under the FMCSA safety regulations, it did not involve an exempt motor carrier or trash hauler. See, e.g., Shelton v. Gure, 2021 Dist. LEXIS 102307 (M.D. Pa. 2021).

2. There Is No Franchise Under Restatement (Second) of Torts § 428 ("§ 428")

Plaintiff asserts that Voyager is vicariously liable for its independent contractor under a § 428 franchise bestowed upon Voyager by the US DOT, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("PA DEP"), and New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection ("NJ DEP"). Ignoring that Pennsylvania has not adopted § 428 ¹¹, vicarious liability through a § 428 franchise is only appropriate when:

An individual or a corporation carrying on an activity which can be lawfully carried on only under a franchise granted by public authority and which involves an unreasonable risk of harm to others, is subject to liability for physical harm caused to such others by the negligence of a contractor employed to do work carrying on the activity.

Restatement (Second) of Torts § 428.

¹¹ In fact, the Restatement is supposed to "offer a synthesis of American common law". See, <u>Tincher v. Omega Flex</u>, 104 A.3d. 328, 339 (Pa. 2014). Adoption of the Restatement cannot depart dramatically from the well and long-established common law because the Restatement has not been vetted through the legislative process. See, <u>Tincher</u> at 340-341. "The Court is not in a position to upend risks and expectations premised upon broad-based arguments calling for a judgment about socially acceptable economic incentives; the legislative setting is a preferable forum for such an endeavor". <u>Tincher</u> at 340 (internal citations omitted).

See also, Aubourg v. Eyre Bus. Serv., 2021 US Dist. LEXIS 239346, *15 (W.D. Pa. 2021)(the district courts have applied § 428 when "common carriers have subcontracted others to perform their duties and the acts of the subcontractors caused harm to third parties").

Even if Pennsylvania adopted § 428, it would not apply the strict liability approach that Plaintiff is seeking in this case (i.e. you have a license = franchise/non-delegable duty; you have a permit = franchise/non-delegable duty; you are regulated in any way by any governmental agency = franchise/non-delegable duty). Instead, Pennsylvania has been measured/balanced in evaluating a § 428 argument.

Not every type of carrier is bestowed with operating authority by the DOT. In fact, the DOT characterizes trash haulers, like Voyager, as exempt-for-hire carriers. Defendants' exempt for hire status is not in dispute here. Ultimately, trash haulers are exempt because garbage is viewed as having no or little value and does not constitute "property". Importantly, exempt for hire carriers do not receive operating authority or a motor carrier ("MC") number, and therefore, no authority or privilege – or § 428 franchise – is bestowed by the DOT. See, Wilson v. IESI NY Corp., 444 F. Supp.2d 298, 312 (M.D. Pa. 2006)(the Pennsylvania District Court acknowledges that the lack of operating authority give by the DOT means that there is no franchise).

Next, Plaintiff asserts that the § 428 franchise is created by obtaining Pennsylvania's Act 90 permit and New Jersey's Act 901 license. However, these are also insufficient mechanisms to create a § 428 franchise and support vicarious liability. The case law in each respective state reserve a § 428 franchise analysis to authorized-for-hire carriers – those that are required to obtain operating authority from the DOT. See, e.g., Venuto v. Robinson, 118 F.2d 679 (3d Cir. 1941); Longo v. Pennsylvania Electric Co., 618 F. Supp. 87, 90-91 (W.D. Pa. 1985); Kissell v. Motor Age Transit Lines, Inc., 53 A.2d 593 (Pa. 1947); Courtney v. Ivanov, 2015 US Dist.

LEXIS 81165 (W.D. Pa. 2015); <u>Trautman v. Higbie</u>, 89 A.2d 649 (NJ 1952). None impose § 428 liability on exempt-for-hire carriers like Defendants¹².

Also, Blue & Green operated under its own Pennsylvania authorization permit when it was transporting the garbage within the Commonwealth and was not acting under Voyager's authority. New Jersey's statutes specifically limit its regulations related to the transportation of garbage to activities within its own borders and acknowledges that alternative or additional authority may be required outside of New Jersey. See, N.J.S.A. § 13:1E-9.3. Here, the accident happened in Pennsylvania. Defendants submit that the Court should focus on how Pennsylvania evaluates

D. Blue & Green and Voyager Did Not Do Anything Wrong

Blue & Green is the independent contractor of Voyager – not Mr. Patten. Although direct and vicarious claims were asserted against Blue & Green, Plaintiff does not criticize Blue & Green's conduct. In fact, none of Plaintiff's experts offer any criticism of Blue & Green.

The direct liability claims against Voyager are purportedly that Voyager failed to properly train Mr. Patten – their independent contractor's driver/employee - or enforce their internal cell phone policy. To support Plaintiff's direct negligence claims against Voyager, Plaintiff offers the expert opinion of trucking expert, Jon Paul Dillard¹³. Plaintiff concedes that Mr. Dillard will not opine that Voyager was a statutory employer of Mr. Patten. Mr. Dillard also concedes that Mr. Patten satisfied the qualification necessary to become a commercial driver. See, 49 CFR 391, et seq.

¹² Blue & Green also had it's own authorization permit from the PA DEP to transport garbage in the Commonwealth and was not acting under Voyager's permit.

¹³ Defendants filed a motion in *limine* to preclude and/or limit Mr. Dillard's testimony pursuant to Fed.R.Evid. 702 and <u>Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals</u>, <u>Inc.</u>, 43 F.3d 1311 (9th Cir. 1995). Mr .Dillard has been precluded from offering conclusions that failing to offer defensive driving training caused an accident or that lack of training constitute a conscious disregard for the motoring public. Plaintiff has agreed to voluntarily limit the scope of Mr. Dillard's testimony.

Other than the entry level training required to obtain a commercial motor vehicle license ("CDL"), the FMCSA does not require any additional training. See, e.g., 49 CFR 383.111, 383.113, 380.107, 380.109, 383.37, and 383.1. Training is certainly not required to be provided to employees of independent contractors. Instead, Voyager confirmed Blue & Green's driver, Mr. Patten, had, e.g., a valid CDL, did not have any disqualifying motor vehicle violations, and passed a road test. Mr. Patten also underwent an orientation that included some driver training — this was not required. Of note, Plaintiff is not asserting a negligent entrustment claim and there is no dispute that Mr. Patten is a qualified commercial motor vehicle driver.

Mr. Dillard seems to suggest that Mr. Patten's lack of operating authority rendered Voyager responsible for Mr. Patten's qualifications and training because they hired him to drive his vehicle on behalf of Voyager. This is not accurate. First, Voyager contracted with Blue & Green and not Mr. Patten. Secondly, neither Voyager or Blue & Green had operating authority because they transport garbage – not property or people. Neither Voyager or Blue & Green were required to have operating authority.

Voyager utilized both independent contractors and their own employee drivers. The

Voyager employee drivers operated Voyager trucks and operated under Voyager's authority. In

contrast, independent contractors had their own equipment and operated under their own

authority. Voyager's internal cell phone policy only applied to their employee drivers. In fact,

Voyager lacked the requisite control over their independent contractors to implement and enforce
their own internal policies against their contractor's employees.

The argument that Voyager had a duty to enforce their internal cell phone policy against it's independent contractor's employee, Mr. Patten, and failure to do so constituted a breach, is a back door approach to submitting inadmissible evidence. Plaintiff's experts, Mr. Dillard and Dr. Strayer do not offer the opinion that Voyager's internal cell phone policy is customary,

widespread, generally accepted, and/or the standard in the trucking industry. Without this, Voyager's more restrictive internal cell phone policy cannot be used as the equivalent or demonstrative of the measure of care to be applied in this case.

It is well established in Pennsylvania that internal policies that go above and beyond common law or statutory standards of care, do not create a new or higher standard of care as a matter of law and public policy. See, e.g., Aiello v. Chester Downs, LLC, 2021 US Dist. LEXIS 132566, *16 (E.D. Pa. 2021)(finding that internal policies were not the same as duty of care, especially when the internal policy offers greater protection to the public); McNelis v. Pa. Power & Light Co., 867 F.3d 411, 418 (3d Cir. 2017)(violations of internal policies by itself does not equate to violation of the law); Keifer v. Reinhart Foodservices, LLC 2012 US Dist. LEXIS 12209, fn. 10 (W.D. Pa. 2012)(internal policies do not necessarily represent the standard of care); Callison v. City of Philadelphia, 430 F.3d 117, 121 (3d. Cir. 2005)(where internal policies conflict with law, the law controls and compliance with the law is sufficient); Heichel v. Marriott Hotel Servs, 2019 US Dist. LEXIS 85136, *10 (E.D.Pa. 2019)(internal citations omitted)(finding that company rules or internal manuals by themselves do not establish a standard of care).

Instead, the FMCSA regulations set the standard as it relates to cell phone use and driver conduct/safety. See, e.g., 49 CFR §§ 392.82, 382.103, et seq., 383.113, et seq., 391.11, et seq. and 392.10, et seq. Blue & Green's driver did not violate the FMCSA regulations regarding cell phone use.

Ultimately, if Plaintiff cannot establish a standard of care (i.e. duty), there can be no breach, and no finding of negligence.

IV. ALLEGED DAMAGES

Plaintiff alleges past and future medical expenses and pain and suffering. There is no loss of earnings claim.

The parties stipulate that there is \$981,711.87 in related past medical expenses.

Plaintiff's life care planner asserts a total \$7,504.868.28 in projected future medicals. This includes a \$1.8 million dollar level three prosthetic that exceeds Plaintiff's physical capabilities and the potential for a future left leg amputation. This life care plan also assumes that Plaintiff's life expectancy is that of an average male and fails to consider his increased risk of infection/sepsis, falls, deep vein thrombosis, and immobility-related pneumonia which will decrease his life span by 15 years.

In contrast, Defendants' life care planner projects future medical expenses to be \$3,802,774.77. To the extent that Plaintiff's left leg is also amputated, defense projected future medicals are \$4,528,291.32.

V. WITNESSES TO BE CALLED AT TRIAL¹⁴

In addition to the parties of this matter and their respective representatives, if any,

Defendants may call any of the following witnesses in presentation of its case in chief:

A. Liability

- Casey Cairns
 1396 Geigertown Road
 Geigertown, PA 19523
- Officer Kyle Tranovich
 Officer Thomas Brecker
 Sargent Matthew Menna
 c/o Caernarvon Township Police Department
 330 Main Street
 Morgantown, PA
- Christopher Smith
 Kevin Bambrick
 Honeybrook-Elverson EMS
 4458 Main St.
 Elverson, PA 19520

¹⁴ Defendants reserve the right to modify the same prior to trial, if necessary.

4. Cortney Pusch Matthew Keller Jordan Greenwood Dispatchers Berks County Department of Emergency Services 2561 Bernville Rd. Reading, PA 19605

Kelly Motter Responding EMT Brandywine Hospital Medical Transport 201 Reeceville Road Coatesville, PA 19320

6. Deputy Pete Hornberger
Captain Mike Wilson
Lieutenant Keith Gehman
Officer Tim Cunningham
Keith McGowan
Jonathan Porter
Responding Firefighters and Officers
Twin Valley Fire Company
4456 Main Street
Elverson, PA 19520

Barry Readinger Regal Lane Birdsboro, PA 19508

- 8. Tyler Sakal41 West Fifth StreetPottstown, Pennsylvania 19464
- Jeffrey Reed
 305 Blimline Road
 Mohnton, PA 19540
- 10. Timothy Mast305 East Main Street, Apartment 1New Holland, PA. 17557
- 11. Robert LaveryBeiler Brothers Roofing836 Peters RoadNew Holland, PA 17557

12. Andre Hamilton35 Prescott AvenueGarfield, NJ 07026

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14. Liam Tanelli c/o Law Offices of Thomas J. Wagner, LLC 8 Penn Center, 6th Floor 1628 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 19103

John Costa c/o Law Offices of Thomas J. Wagner, LLC 8 Penn Center, 6th Floor 1628 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 19103

- Justin Haskins
 c/o Law Offices of Thomas J. Wagner, LLC
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 Philadelphia, PA 19103
- 17. Todd HooverDesign Research Engineering46475 Desoto CourtNovi, MI 48377
- 18. Dr. Jeffrey Muttart
 Crash Safety Research Center
 42 East High Street, #105B
 East Hampton, CT 91604
- Dr. David Curry
 Solution Engineering Group
 420 N. Main Street
 Montgomery, IL 60538
- 20. Dr. Tara MooreTara Moore Consulting273 N. Easton RoadGlenside, PA 19038

- 21. Dr. Michael McCabeExigent292 Main StreetHarleysville, PA 19438
- Kirk Cummings
 1761 Skiers Alley
 Lapeer, MI 48446
- Mark Lanterman
 Computer Forensic Services
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 Minneapolis, MN 55403
- Dr. L. Matthew Schwartz
 1108 E. Willow Grove Avenue
 Wyndmoor, PA, 19038
- Joseph Purfield
 c/o Harbor Business Compliance Corporation Lancaster
 1830 Colonial Village Lane
 Lancaster, PA 17601
- Stanley Andrews
 Ei Consultants, LLC
 PO Box 610
 2575 E. Heritage Parkway, 2nd Floor
 Farmington, AR 72730
- 27. Randy Nelson
 Motorcycle Dynamics
 701 S. Andresea Drive, Suite A
 Escondido, CA 92029
- Joellen GillApplied Cognitive Sciences10501 S. Lambs LaneMica, WA 99023
- Jon Paul Dillard
 JP Transportation Safety Consulting
 PO Box 382105
 Birmingham, AL 35238

- 30. Dr. David Strayer
 Department of Psychology
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 University of Utah
 Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0251
- 31. Dr. Calum McRae
 ARCCA, Incorporated
 2288 Second Street Pike
 PO Box 78
 Penns Park, PA 18943
- 32. Dr. Timur Durrani 2507 Ashby Avenue Berkeley, CA 94705
- 33. Dr. Ryan Michel 850 Knitting Mills Way Wyomissing, PA 19610
- 34. Dr. Filip Moshkovsky Reading Hospital 420 S. 5th Avenue West Reading, PA 19611
- 35. Dr. Eliott H. Myrowitz
 Wilmer Eye Institute at Green Spring Station
 10753 Falls Road, Suite 455
 Lutherville, MD 21093
- 36. Records Custodians, Representatives, and/or Corporate Designees of:
- a. Omni Insurance Company a/k/a Good2Go Insurance
 1400 Union Meeting Road, Suite 250
 Blue Bell, PA 19422
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
 Bureau of Driver Licensing
 Vehicle Record Services
 PO Box 68695
 Harrisburg, PA 17106-8695
- c. Dr. Jeffrey Mumie315 Darby Square, Suite 100Elverson, PA 19520

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- ee. CoreSource 1280 North Plum Street Lancaster, PA 17608
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- gg. Horizon Healthcare 1070 New Holland Avenue Lancaster, PA 17601
- hh. Pennsylvania Department of Revenue Director's Office Bureau of Administrative Services 12th Floor Strawberry Square Harrisburg, PA 17128-1200
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- rr. Orthopaedics Associates of Reading 4885 Demoss Rd. #102 Reading, PA 19606
- ss. Tower Health at Home Berks 1170 Berkshire Blvd. Wyomissing, PA 19610

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nnn. Endurance American Insurance Company c/o Sompo International Insurance 3333 New Hyde Park Road, Suite 210 New Hyde Park, NY 11042 ooo. Hallmark Specialty Insurance Company c/o Registered Agent
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Somerset, NJ 08873

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rrr. Prime Property & Casualty Insurance 303 W. Madison Street, Suite 2075 Chicago, IL 60606

sss. Sompo International
3333 New Hyde Park Road, Suite 210
New Hyde Park, NY 11042

ttt. Statewide Resources Insurance Agency, LLC 655 Kearny Ave., Ste. 201 Kearny, NJ 07032

uuu. T-Mobile Law Enforcement Relations 4 Sylvan Way Parsippany, NJ 07054

vvv. Motive formerly known as Keep Truckin' c/o Incorporating Services, Ltd.
3500 South Dupont Highway
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iiii. Progressive Insurance6300 Wilson Mills RoadMayfield Village, OH 44143

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kkkk. Abel's Notary Service 630 Lancaster Avenue Columbia, PA 17512

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oooo. Dr. Barbara Hoffer 1623 Morgantown Road Reading, PA 19607-9455

pppp. Caernarvon Fire Department 2145 Main Street Narvon, PA 17555

qqqq. Berks County Orthopedics 438 Walnut Street Reading, PA 19601

rrrr. Kelly Services 86 Commerce Drive Wyomissing, PA 19610

ssss. Employment-A-Plus
3 Burkhardt Lane
Newmanstown, PA 17073

tttt. Wendy's 1075 S. State Street Ephrata, PA 17522

uuuu. People Ready 3276 N. 5th Street Highway Reading, PA 19605 vvvv. Blue Ball Elementary School 126 Ewell Road East Earl, PA 17519

wwww. Aerotek Staffing Agency

999 Berkshire Blvd., Ste 180 Wyomissing, PA 19610

xxxx. Morgan Truck Body, LLC 111 Morgan Way Morgantown, PA 19543

yyyy. Pennsylvania Department of Health 625 Forster Street Health & Welfare Building, Room 628 Harrisburg, PA 17120

zzzz. Bureau of Program Integrity PO Box 8486 Harrisburg, PA 17105

aaaaa. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services625 Forster StreetHarrisburg, PA 17120

bbbbb. Papa John's 705 W. Main Street Ephrata, PA 17522

cccc. Dr. Andrew S. In 3307 Lincoln Highway E Thorndale, PA 19372

ddddd. St. Joseph Health Network @ Elverson 45 S. Pine Street Elverson, PA 19520

eeeee. Dr. Yooson E. Kim
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fffff. Schaffer's Automotive, LLC 4579 N. Twin Valley Rd. Elverson, PA 19520 ggggg. Andrew Wyatt Putt 461 Charles Road Lancaster, PA 17603

hhhhh. Douglas E. Bird 800 S. Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 17104

iiiii. Eye Med Vision c/o National Regional Agents 116 Pine Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320 Harrisburg, PA 17101

jjjjj. Integrated Medical Group 82 Tunnel Road Pottsville, PA 17901-3869

kkkk. Thomas W. Novy, Jr. 517 Hellam Street Wrightsville, PA 17368

Illll. Wendy M. Pogue 218 Lincoln Avenue Ephrata, PA 17502

B. Damages

- Casey Cairns
 1396 Geigertown Road
 Geigertown, PA 19523
- Officer Kyle Tranovich
 Officer Thomas Brecker
 Sargent Matthew Menna
 Investigating Officers
 c/o Caernaryon Township Police Department
 330 Main Street
 Morgantown, PA
- Christopher Smith
 Kevin Bambrick
 Honeybrook-Elverson EMS
 4458n St.
 Elverson, PA 19520
- Cortney Pusch Matthew Keller Jordan Greenwood

Dispatchers
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2561 Bernville Rd.
Reading, PA 19605

5. Kelly Motter

Responding EMT Brandywine Hospital Medical Transport 201 Reeceville Road Coatesville, PA 19320

6. Deputy Pete Hornberger Captain Mike Wilson Lieutenant Keith Gehman Officer Tim Cunningham Keith McGowan

Jonathan Porter Responding Firefig

Responding Firefighters and Officers

Twin Valley Fire Company

4456 Main Street

Elverson, PA 19520

7. Barry Readinger

58 Regal Lane

Birdsboro, PA 19508

8. Tyler Sakal

41 West Fifth Street

Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464

9. Jeffrey Reed

305 Blimline Road

Mohnton, PA 19540

10. Timothy Mast

305 East Main Street, Apartment 1

New Holland, PA. 17557.

11. Robert Lavery

Beiler Brothers Roofing

836 Peters Road

New Holland, PA 17557

12. Andre Hamilton

35 Prescott Avenue

Garfield, NJ 07026

13. Zanna Patten

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14. Liam Tanelli

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15. John Costa

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16. Justin Haskins

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17. Dr. Tara Moore

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Dr. L. Matthew Schwartz 1108 E. Willow Grove Avenue Wyndmoor, PA 19038

19. Heidi Fawber PO Box 299 Mars, PA 16046

20. Mark Lanterman

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21. Joseph Purfield

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- 22. Dr. Calum McRae ARCCA, Incorporated 2288 Second Street Pike PO Box 78 Penns Park, PA 18943
- 23. Dr. Timur Durrani 2507 Ashby Avenue Berkeley, CA 94705
- 24. Dr. Ryan Michels850 Knitting Mills WayWyomissing, PA 19610
- 25. Dr. Filip Moshkovsky Reading Hospital 420 S. 5th Avenue West Reading, PA 19611
- 26. Dr. Eliott H. Myrowitz Wilmer Eye Institute at Green Spring Station 10753 Falls Road, Suite 455 Lutherville, MD 21093
- 27. Dr. Guy FriedMagee Rehabilitation Hospital1513 Race StreetPhiladelphia, PA 19102
- 28. Dr. Ethan Geehr (Unknown)
- 29. Dale Allen Berry 3000 Astoria Pines Circle Las Vegas, NV 89107
- 30. Valarie Parisi 109 Windsong Drive Doylestown, PA 18901
- 31. Dr. Michael McCabeExigent292 Main StreetHarleysville, PA 19438
- 32. Treating Physicians and providers, Records Custodians and/or Corporate Designees of:

- a. Omni Insurance Company a/k/a Good2Go Insurance 1400 Union Meeting Road, Suite 250 Blue Bell, PA 19422
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
 Bureau of Driver Licensing
 Vehicle Record Services
 PO Box 68695
 Harrisburg, PA 17106-8695
- c. Dr. Jeffrey Mumie
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- d. UPMC Community Health Choices
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- ooo. Hallmark Specialty Insurance Company c/o Registered Agent
 Kerr, Irvine Rhodes & Ables
 201 Robert S. Kerr Avenue, Suite 600
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- ppp. Dr. Jerry Szych
 Natural Medicine and Rehabilitation
 399 Campus Drive, 1st Floor
 Somerset, NJ 08873
- qqq. Reliance Partners 555 Walnut St, Suite 280 Chattanooga, TN 37402
- rrr. Prime Property & Casualty Insurance 303 W. Madison Street, Suite 2075 Chicago, IL 60606
- sss. Sompo International
 3333 New Hyde Park Road, Suite 210
 New Hyde Park, NY 11042
- ttt. Statewide Resources Insurance Agency, LLC 655 Kearny Ave., Ste. 201 Kearny, NJ 07032
- uuu. T-Mobile Law Enforcement Relations 4 Sylvan Way Parsippany, NJ 07054

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gggg. Dr. Brian Lockhart 420 S. 5th Avenue Suite D1, 1st Floor Reading, PA 19611

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iiii. Progressive Insurance6300 Wilson Mills RoadMayfield Village, OH 44143

jjjj. Carolyn's Notary and Auto Tags 58 Cooperfield Circle Lititz, PA 17543

kkkk. Abel's Notary Service 630 Lancaster Avenue Columbia, PA 17512

IIII. Vitu 1500 Paxton Street, Suite 103 Harrisburg, PA 17104

mmmm. Integrated Medical Transport, LLC 2999 Revere Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111

nnnn. Dr. Mark Wagner Murphy & Wagner DO 623 N 5th Street Reading, PA 19601

oooo. Dr. Barbara Hoffer 1623 Morgantown Road Reading, PA 19607-9455

pppp. Caernarvon Fire Department 2145 Main Street Narvon, PA 17555

qqqq. Berks County Orthopedics 438 Walnut Street Reading, PA 19601 rrrr. Kelly Services 86 Commerce Drive Wyomissing, PA 19610

ssss. Employment-A-Plus
3 Burkhardt Lane
Newmanstown, PA 17073

tttt. Wendy's 1075 S. State Street Ephrata, PA 17522

uuuu. People Ready 3276 N. 5th Street Highway Reading, PA 19605

vvvv. Blue Ball Elementary School 126 Ewell Road East Earl, PA 17519

wwww. Aerotek Staffing Agency 999 Berkshire Blvd., Ste 180 Wyomissing, PA 19610

xxxx. Morgan Truck Body, LLC 111 Morgan Way Morgantown, PA 19543

yyyy. Pennsylvania Department of Health Office of Medical Marijuana 625 Forster Street Health & Welfare Building, Room 628 Harrisburg, PA 17120

> Bureau of Program Integrity PO Box 8486 Harrisburg, PA 17105 Department of Human Services 625 Forster Street Harrisburg, PA 17120

zzzz. Papa John's 705 W. Main Street Ephrata, PA 17522

cccc. Dr. Andrew S. In
3307 Lincoln Highway E
Thorndale, PA 19372

ddddd. St. Joseph Health Network @ Elverson 45 S. Pine Street Elverson, PA 19520

eeeee. Dr. Yooson E. Kim

Family Dentistry Morgantown

3411 Main Street

Morgantown, PA 19543

fffff. Schaffer's Automotive, LLC 4579 N. Twin Valley Rd. Elverson, PA 19520

ggggg. BB&T Corporation c/o Corporation Service Company 2595 Interstate Drive, Ste 103 Harrisburg, PA 17110

hhhhh. Eye Med Vision c/o National Regional Agents 116 Pine Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320 Harrisburg, PA 17101

iiiii. Integrated Medical Group82 Tunnel RoadPottsville, PA 17901-3869

33. Witnesses identified by Plaintiff

VI. EXHIBITS¹⁵

Defendants may us any of the following exhibits in presentation of their case in chief:

- 1. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Plaintiff Travis Sweigart
- 2. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Officer Thomas Brecker
- 3. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Kevin Bambrick
- 4. Deposition Transcript and Exhibits of Robert Lavery
- 5. Deposition Transcript and Exhibits of Jeffrey Reed
- 6. Deposition Transcript and Exhibits of Tyler Sakal
- 7. Deposition Transcript and Exhibits of Timothy Mast
- 8. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Officer Kyle Tranovich
- 9. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Sargent Matthew Menna
- 10. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Christopher Smith
- 11. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of John Costa
- 12. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Liam Tanelli

¹⁵ Defendants reserve the right to modify the same prior to trial, if necessary.

- 13. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Kevin Patten
- 14. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Justin Haskins
- 15. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Zanna Patten
- 16. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Casey Cairns
- 17. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Andre Hamilton
- 18. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Barry Readinger
- 19. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Dr. Michael McCabe
- 20. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Dr. Calum McRae
- 21. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Dr. Timur Durrani
- 22. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Jon Paul Dillard
- 23. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Dr. Jeffrey Muttart
- 24. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Dr. David Strayer
- 25. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Joellen Gill
- 26. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Randy Nelson
- 27. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Todd Hoover
- 28. Video Deposition, Exhibits, and Transcripts of Stanley Andrews
- 29. All materials exchanged in discovery
- 30. All parties' requests and responses to Interrogatories and Requests to Produce
- 31. Plaintiff's Complaints and Defendants' respective Answers with Affirmative Defenses
- 32. Plaintiff's Initial Disclosures
- 33. Defendants' Initial Disclosures
- 34. Any and all photographs, scans, and/or videos in possession of any party depicting the area where the September 9, 2019 accident happened
- 35. Any and all photographs, scans, and/or videos in possession of any party depicting the motorcycle driven by Plaintiff at the time of the collision
- 36. Any and all photographs, scans, and/or videos in possession of any party depicting the tractor or trailer driven by Mr. Patten at the time of the collision
- 37. Any and all photographs and/or videos in possession of any party depicting Plaintiff and any injuries sustained by Plaintiff as a result of the September 9, 2019 accident
- 38. Any and all audio recordings, phone messages, or transcripts relating to the September 9, 2019 accident or Plaintiff's alleged injuries
- 39. Inspection protocol and forensic imaging data of Plaintiff's cell phone
- 40. Exemplar vehicles and/or parts from the 2002 Yamaha Fazer Motorcycle
- 41. Exemplar vehicles and/or parts from the 2006 Freightliner
- 42. Motive's Electronic Log Device
- 43. Stipulations of the Parties
- 44. Court Orders
- 45. Requests for Admissions and Responses
- 46. Demonstrative diagrams, photographs, powerpoint, and/or videos regarding the vehicles involved in the accident, accident site, and events leading up to the accident
- 47. Expert report(s), Demonstrative Exhibits, Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Todd Hoover
- 48. Expert report(s), Demonstrative Exhibits, Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. Jeffrey Muttart
- 49. Expert report(s), Demonstrative Exhibits, Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. Tara Moore
- 50. Expert report(s), Demonstrative Exhibits, Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Kirk Cummings

- 51. Expert report(s), Demonstrative Exhibits, Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. David Curry
- 52. Expert report(s), Demonstrative Exhibits, Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. L. Matthew Schwartz
- 53. Expert report(s), Demonstrative Exhibits, Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. Michael McCabe
- 54. Expert report(s), Demonstrative Exhibits, Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Heidi Fawber
- 55. Declaration(s), Demonstrative Exhibits, Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Mark Lanterman
- 56. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Stanley Andrews
- 57. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Joellen Gill
- 58. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Randy Nelson
- 59. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Jon Paul Dillard
- 60. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. David Strayer
- 61. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Valarie Parisi
- 62. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. Calum McRae
- 63. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. Guy Fried
- 64. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. Ryan Michels
- 65. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. Filip Moshkovsky
- 66. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. Dale Berry
- 67. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. Elliot Myrowitz
- 68. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Dr. Timur Durrani
- 69. Expert report(s), Curriculum Vitae and Disclosures of Ethan Geehr
- 70. Affidavit, Correspondences, and Curriculum Vitae of Joseph Purfield
- 71. All materials identified in Plaintiff's pre-trial memorandum or used by Plaintiff at trial¹⁶
- 72. Records, reports, and materials of:
 - a. Omni Insurance Company a/k/a Good2Go Insurance
 - b. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
 - c. Dr. Jeffrey Mumie
 - d. UPMC Community Health Choices
 - e. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Motor Vehicles
 - f. America's Best
 - g. Dr. Cain Cerra
 - h. NovaCare Rehabilitation
 - i. Romed Ambulance
 - j. Bollman Hat Company
 - k. State Farm Insurance Company
 - 1. Caernaryon Township Police Department
 - m. Charles E. Barton
 - n. Dr. Krystle Chuong
 - o. Coventry Dentistry
 - p. The Performance Group
 - q. Dr. Donovan C. Young
 - r. Dr. David S. Goldberg

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¹⁶ Defendants' incorporation of materials identified by Plaintiff does not waive their right to object to the admissibility of the same.

S.	Garden Spot Middle School
t.	Cocalico High School
u.	Dr. Nathan Daigle
v.	Burmans Medical
W.	Tower Health Plastic Surgery
х.	Western Berks Ambulance Association
у.	Reading Nephrology
Z.	Southern Berks EMS
aa.	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Auto Tags
bb.	Pottstown Hospital
cc.	Aetna
dd.	Walmart Pharmacy
ee.	CoreSource
ff.	Doug's Family Pharmacy
gg.	Horizon Healthcare
hh.	Pennsylvania Department of Revenue
ii.	In Home Oxygen
jj.	Pottstown Wound Center
kk.	Star Marketing and Administration, Inc.
11.	Tower Health
mm.	Medline Industries
nn.	GPS Physicians Group
00.	Dr. Joseph W. Strangarity
pp.	Twin Valley Fire Department
qq.	Ability Prosthetics and Orthotics
rr.	Orthopaedics Associates of Reading
SS.	Tower Health at Home – Berks
tt.	Conduent
uu.	Brandywine Hospital Medical Transport
vv.	Heck Construction
ww.	GEICO Insurance Company
XX.	Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital
уу.	Elverson Honeybrook EMS
ZZ.	Berks Radiation Oncology Association
aaa.	Help at Home
bbb.	William Champagne
ccc.	Berks County Department of Emergency Services
ddd.	Social Security Administration
eee.	Beiler Brothers, LLC
fff.	Dr. Thiruvenkatas Dhurairaj
ggg.	Dr. Michael Sachenik
hhh.	ACME
iii.	Vaitl Service, Inc.
jjj.	Reono Bertagnolli, A Medical Group
kkk.	Berkshire Rehab Center
111.	TracFone Wireless, Inc.
mmm.	Brooks Group Insurance Agency, LLC
nnn.	Endurance American Insurance Company
	T1

ooo. Hallmark Specialty Insurance Co

ppp. Dr. Jerry Szych qqq. Reliance Partners

rrr. Prime Property & Casualty Insurance

sss. Sompo International

ttt. Statewide Resources Insurance Agency, LLC

uuu. T-Mobile

vvv. Motive formerly known as Keep Truckin'

www. Help at Home Services, LLC xxx. Health at Home Care, LLC

yyy. Rider Insurance

zzz. Gage Personnel Employment Services

aaaa. SMS Builders

bbbb. Reamstown Elementary School
cccc. French Creek Golf Course
dddd. Brecknock Elementary School
eeee. Express Employment Professionals

ffff. Dr. Michael Williams gggg. Dr. Brian Lockhart hhhh. Dr. Thomas W. Dooley

iiii. Rider Insurance

jjjj. American Select Insurance Company

kkkk. Progressive Insurance

Illl. Carolyn's Notary and Auto Tags

mmmm. Abel's Notary Service

nnnn. Vitu

oooo. Integrated Medical Transport, LLC

pppp. Dr. Mark Wagner qqqq. Dr. Barbara Hoffer

rrrr. Caernarvon Fire Department ssss. Berks County Orthopedics

tttt. Kelly Services uuuu. Employment-A-Plus

vvvv. Wendy's wwww. People Ready

xxxx. Blue Ball Elementary School yyyy. Aerotek Staffing Agency zzzz. Morgan Truck Body, LLC

aaaaa. Papa John's

bbbbb. Wilmer Eye Institute

ccccc. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

ddddd. Schaffer's Automotive, LLC

VII. ESTIMATED LENGTH OF TRIAL

Defendants estimate that this trial will take approximately ten days.

VIII. SPECIAL ISSUES

- A. Defendants request reconsideration on the following issues and will be submitting bench Memorandums in support on the following:
 - 1. Preclusion of evidence relating to Plaintiff's failure to demonstrate proficient skill and knowledge for the safe operation of a motorcycle by obtaining the required motorcycle license;
 - 2. Preclusion of evidence relating to the condition of the motorcycle, including the failure to obtain the required safety inspection;
 - 3. Preclusion of evidence that marijuana metabolites were present in Plaintiff's system at the time of the accident when there is sufficient corroborating evidence of impairment (i.e. significant delay in response time, decision to apply the rear brake only causing reduced braking ability and maneuverability, toxicology results demonstrating presence of metabolites, and possession of drugs and paraphernalia) that should be presented to the fact finder for determination;
 - 4. Preclusion of habit evidence relating to speed and skill; and
 - 5. Preclusion of the motorcycle videos that depict Plaintiff's skill level and condition/handling of the motorcycle.
 - B. Defendants requested Plaintiff stipulate and agree to the authenticity, reliability and business records status of materials received pursuant to subpoena and exchanged during discovery.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS J. WAGNER, LLC

By:

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